



City of Ellensburg

PROCLAMATION

April as National Poetry Month in Ellensburg

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States; and

WHEREAS, poetry is defined by Mary Oliver as “a life-cherishing force,” by Audre Lorde as “the skeleton architecture of our lives,” and by David Whyte as “an emblem of courage”; and

WHEREAS, poetry is a creative process that fosters not only self-discovery, but also community-building and connection to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, Ellensburg has a history of supporting poetry events, such as the Inland Poetry Prowl, a weekend-long event of guest poets, open mics, and a book fair organized by Inland Poetry; and

WHEREAS, in March 2023, Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest participated in Ellensburg’s Women’s History Month Poetry Extravaganza, a community event that featured a crown of sonnets honoring eight historical women of the Kittitas Valley; and

WHEREAS, Central Washington University celebrates and supports the lifework of poetry through delivery of innovative BA and MA degrees taught by award-winning writers, and brings notable poets to Ellensburg in the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series; and

WHEREAS, the Ellensburg Arts Commission, recognizing poetry as integral to the city’s growing art scene, championed the creation of the Ellensburg Poet Laureate position, and the City Poem, “This Valley, Our Cradle,” was composed by Marie Marchand, the City’s first Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, the reading, writing, and sharing of poetry serves as an inspiring healing opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to actualize their bravest, most authentic selves.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Lillquist, Mayor of Ellensburg, do hereby proclaim April as National Poetry Month in Ellensburg. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all people of Ellensburg to observe this month by attending an event or writing a poem to celebrate the important role poetry plays in deepening self-awareness and connection to human community and the natural world.

Signed this 3rd day of April 2023.

Attest:

City Clerk

A blue ink signature of Betty Leades, the City Clerk, written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Lillquist, Mayor

A blue ink signature of Nancy Lillquist, the Mayor, written over a horizontal line.